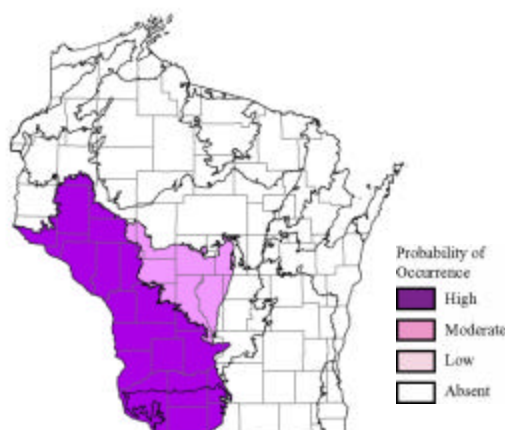


## Prairie Ringneck Snake (*Diadophis punctatus arnyi*)

### Species Assessment Scores\*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	3.5
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.1
Area of importance:	2

\* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



### Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

### Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Oak opening
Southwest Savanna	Oak woodland
Western Coulee and Ridges	Bedrock glade
Western Coulee and Ridges	Cedar glade
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak barrens
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak opening
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak woodland
Western Coulee and Ridges	Sand prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry-mesic forest

### Threats and Issues

- Natural succession has reduced available habitat for this species.
- Bluffland urbanization is becoming increasingly problematic for the prairie-dependent snakes.
- Excessive grazing has degraded habitat for this species and led to the invasion of non-native invasive plants.
- Motorized recreation may be damaging habitats in some areas.
- Road mortality may be an issue in some areas.

**Priority Conservation Actions**

- Long-term protection of habitat supporting several viable populations of prairie ringneck snakes is needed.
- Land management efforts are needed to set back natural succession and maintain prairie habitat.
- Bluffland zoning is needed to protect rare habitats and dependent species.
- Major strides in policy and education are needed to ensure that wildlife habitat is adequately represented and considered in zoning and planning decisions.
- Landowner education is needed to help increase prairie habitat restoration efforts.
- Long-term monitoring is needed to evaluate population status and track trends of representative populations.
- Partnering with prairie restoration groups like the Prairie Enthusiasts will help accomplish habitat management more efficiently.